

Message Text

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S E C R E T ATHENS 1166

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR GR US

SUBJ: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

REF: ATHENS 1083 (DTG 041920Z FEB 76)

1. AT INFORMAL MEETING THIS MORNING, STEARNS PASSED TO CALOGERAS DRAFT COMMUNIQUE ON RESULTS OF THIRD PLENARY ROUND, EMPHASIZING THAT DRAFT HAD BEEN PREPARED BY US DELEGATION AND HAD NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN CLEARED IN WASHINGTON. STEARNS SAID THAT DRAFT WAS INTENDED TO ILLUSTRATE GENERAL TONE AND IDEAS WHICH US SIDE BELIEVED WERE APPROPRIATE FOR INCLUSION IN COMMUNIQUE. WE RESERVED RIGHT TO REVISE DRAFT IN LIGHT OF WASHINGTON'S REACTION TO IT. THOUGH THE DRAFT WAS UNCLEARED, STEARNS HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE GREEK SIDE AND WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH A GENERAL NOTION OF OUR THINKING ON THE SUBJECT. STEARNS THOUGHT PERSONALLY THAT ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON AGENCIES MIGHT SUGGEST CHANGES IN WORDING OR DETAIL IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPHS, THE

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SPIRIT AND THURST OF THE DRAFT WOULD NOT BE CHANGED.

HE SAID THAT IN THIS CONNECTION IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO HAVE CALOGERAS' PERSONAL REACTION TO THE DRAFT. THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO KNOW WHETHER WE WERE APPROACHING THE PROBLEM OF THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE SAME DIRECTION AS THE GREEK SIDE.

2. CALOGERAS READ THE DRAFT CAREFULLY AND SAID THAT HIS PERSONAL REACTION WAS POSITIVE. HE CAUTIONED THAT BITSIOS AND CARAMANLIS MIGHT REACT DIFFERENTLY BUT REPEATED THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED NOTHING IN THE DRAFT SEEMED JARRING OR INAPPROPRIATE. HE NOTED THAT BITSIOS WOULD BE DEPARTING FOR PRAGUE AND BUDAPEST ON FEBRUARY 9. HE WOULD THEREFORE TRY TO SEE BITSIOS THIS AFTERNOON AND GIVE US THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. STEARNS SAID THAT HE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT WE COULD AGREE ON THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE BEFORE THE NEXT--AND HOPEFULLY LAST--SESSION OF THE THIRD ROUND ON FEBRUARY 10. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO AVOID A LAST-MINUTE RUSH OF THE KIND WE HAD EXPERIENCED IN THE SECOND ROUND LAST YEAR. CALOGERAS AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO OBTAIN REACTION OF BITSIOS AND CARAMANLIS ON PRIORITY BASIS.

3. TEXT OF DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WHICH STEARNS PASSED TO CALOGERAS IS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:

1. DELEGATIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE MET IN ATHENS JANUARY 26 TO FEBRUARY , 1976 FOR A THIRD ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS ON MUTUAL DEFENSE MATTERS. THE GREEK DELEGATION WAS LED BY AMBASSADOR PETROS CALOGEAS AND THE AMERICAN DELEGATION BY MINISTER MONTEAGLE STEARNS.

2. TALKS PROCEEDED IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP, WITH FULL RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND CONCERN FOR THEIR MANY MUTUAL INTERESTS. THE TWO DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT AMERICAN FACILITIES REMAINING IN GREECE SERVE THE
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SECURITY INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND ENHANCE THEIR COMMON DEFENSE.

3. IN RECOGNITION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, THE TWO SIDES AGREED:

A. INSTALLATIONS ON WHICH US MILITARY ACTIVITIES ARE CONDUCTED SHALL BE GREEK MILITARY BASES.

B. THE BASE COMMANDER SHALL BE GREEK.

C. THE GREEK BASE COMMANDER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE BASE.

D. IN EXERCISE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES THE GREEK BASE COMMANDER SHALL BE FULLY INFORMED OF ALL US MILITARY OPERATIONS CONDUCTED THEREON.

AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES TO SPECIFIC FACILITIES WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. NEW ARRANGEMENTS RESPECTING THE LEGAL STATUS OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN GREECE WERE AGREED TO BY BOTH SIDES, AND A DETAILED AGREEMENT EMBODYING THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAS BEEN SIGNED AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY. THE NEW STATUS OF US FORCES IN GREECE WILL THUS BE AS CONTEMPLATED IN THE NATO STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT AND WILL BE WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH HOST COUNTRY PRACTICE THROUGHOUT THE ALLIANCE.

5. DURING THE SECOND ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE US BASE AT HELLENIKON WOULD BE CLOSED AND THAT THOSE US ELEMENTS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL DEFENSE NEEDS WOULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AT THE GREEK AIR FORCE BASE AT HELLENIKON. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED DURING THIS ROUND CONCERNING THE NATURE AND SIZE OF THOSE ELEMENTS, AND OF WAYS IN WHICH THESE ACTIVITIES WILL CONTRIBUTE MORE DIRECTLY TO GREEK DEFENSE CAPABILITIES.

6. THE STATUS OF US ACTIVITIES AT SOUDA BAY AIR FIELD
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WAS REVIEWED AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON IMPLEMENTATION AND REVISION OF THE 1959 AGREEMENT.

7. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AT NEA MAKRI AND GOURNES WILL BE RETAINED BECAUSE THEY ALSO SERVE MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON WAYS BY WHICH THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES COULD MORE DIRECTLY BENEFIT GREEK SECURITY INTERESTS.

8. THE TWO SIDES ARE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE THIRD ROUND, AND EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ACHIEVE ADDITIONAL PROGRESS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT A FOURTH ROUND WILL BE HELD AT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DATE AND THAT AN OVERALL MILITARY

FACILITIES AGREEMENT WILL BE EVENTUALLY SIGNED TO PROVIDE
THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTINUING GREEK-US SECURITY
RELATIONSHIP. END TEXT.

9. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOONEST
DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO ABOVE DRAFT. KUBISCH

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